

**FEMA'S PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR
LIVINGSTON PARISH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT -
OLD 4TH WARD SCHOOL (FIRE STATION ADDITION),
LIVINGSTON PARISH, LOUISIANA,
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the proposed construction of an addition to the Livingston Parish Fire Protection District No. 11 (LPFPD) fire station building located at 33815 Highway 43 North in Independence, Louisiana, 70443, Livingston Parish, Latitude 30.60084, Longitude -90.61228.

The proposed action would expand the District No. 11 fire station by building an addition at the rear of the existing structure. The newly constructed addition would be approximately 1,500 SF and include a communications room, meeting and training space for fire safety personnel and the public, and interior storage space for fire trucks. A new air conditioning system, water line, parking lot and driveway would be installed or constructed to accommodate the new building addition. The site would be leveled using fill material; and the new structure would tie into existing municipal water and electrical lines.

LPFPD seeks federal grant funds for this action eligible under a Presidential disaster declaration, signed on August 29, 2005 (FEMA-1603-DR-LA). Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a DEA has been prepared to evaluate the proposed action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. This DEA summarizes the purpose and need, site selection process, alternatives to the proposed action, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action.

The DEA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be available for public review at the Livingston Parish Main Library at 20390 Iowa Street, Livingston, Louisiana 70754 (hours are 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Mon. & Wed., 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM Tues. & Thurs., 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Fri., and 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Sat.), and at the Albany-Springfield Branch at 26941 LA Highway 43, Hammond, LA 70403 (hours are 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Mon. & Wed., 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM Tues. & Thurs., 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Fri., and 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Sat.). The DEA can also be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/search/OldFourthWardSchool>. The public notice will run in the local newspapers, *The Livingston Parish News*, on May 1, 4 and 8, 2014, and *The Baton Rouge Advocate*, on May 6, 7 and 8, 2014. The comment period will begin on May 9, 2014, and end May 23, 2014 at 4 pm. Written comments on the DEA/Draft FONSI or related matters can be faxed to FEMA's Louisiana Recovery Office at (504) 762-2323; email to FEMA-NOMA@fema.dhs.gov; or mailed to FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office, EHP – LPFPD, Old 4th Ward School DEA, 1 Seine Court, New Orleans, Louisiana 70114.

Based on FEMA's findings to date, no significant adverse environmental effects are anticipated. However, if FEMA receives new information that results in a change from no adverse effects then FEMA would revise the findings and issue a second public notice allowing time for additional comments. If no substantive comments are received, the DEA and associated draft FONSI will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.